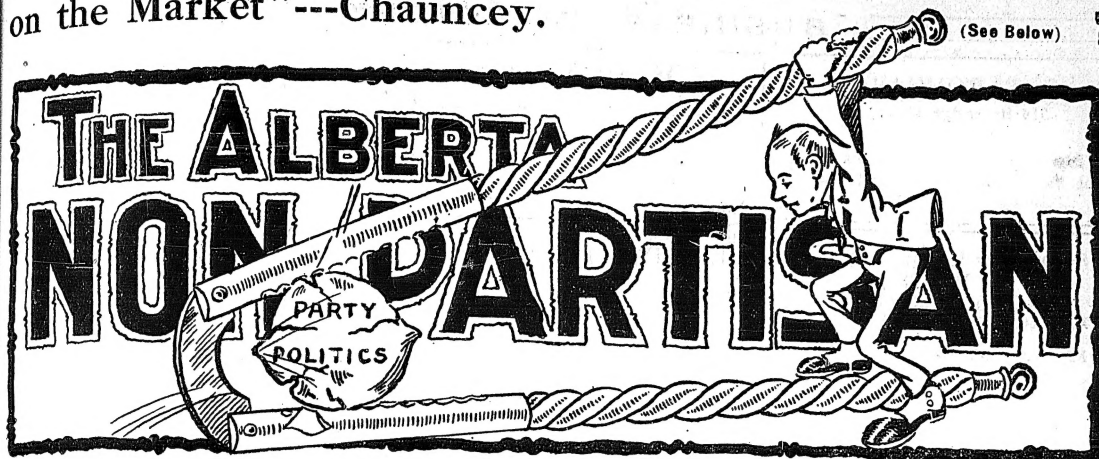


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VOL. 2 CALGARY, APRIL 26, 1918 Price 5 cents per copy No. 11

"UNTIL THE DAY BREAK"

When head and hands and heart alike
are weary
When Hope with folded wings sinks
out of sight
When all thy striving fails to disen-
tangle
From out wrong's skein the golden
threads of right
When all the knowledge seems a
marsh-light's glimmer,
That only shows the blackness of the
night

In the dark hour when victory seems
hopeless,
Against thy lance when armies are
arrayed,
When failure writes itself upon thy
forehead,
By foes outnumbered and by friends
betrayed
Still stand thou fast, though faith be
bruised and wounded,
Still face thy failure, still be undis-
mayed!

While one true man speaks out against
injustice,
While through men's chorused
"Right!" clear rings his
"Wrong!"
Freedom still lives. One day she will
reward him
Who trusted her although she tar-
ried long,
Who held her creed, was faithful till
her coming,
Who, for her sake, strove, suffered,
and was strong.

She will bring crowns for those who
love and serve her
If thou canst live for her, be satisfied;
If thou canst die for her, rejoice!
Our brothers,
At least shall crown our graves and
say, "These died
Believing in the sun when night was
blackest,
And by our dawn their faith is justi-
fied!"

—E. Nesbit, in "Lyrics of Socialism."

THINGS WE HATE TO THINK ABOUT.

Those exemption pledges given to the farmers by the Union Government around election time.

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The loud silence preserved by certain members of the Alberta Legislature during the session.

The arguments of the Quebec members against votes for women.

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—PRESIDENT HALBERT,
United Farmers, Ontario.

READ Our Parliamentary Letter from Ottawa.

PAGE 11

Someone asked an old colored man what breed of chickens he considered best, and he replied: 'All kinds has merits. De white ones is de easiest to find, but de black ones is de easiest to hide after you gets 'em.'

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CURRENT HISTORY

UNCONSCIOUS HUMORISTS

Serving on a Jury

What a dreary old world it is, and yet what a world of funny things. Here they are slaughtering people in Europe by the hundred thousand before breakfast and in Canada we are perpetrating jokes of the most funny and ludicrous variety.

Anyone desirous of seeing the supreme joke of the universe should visit the Court House while a trial is on and watch the ridiculous way in which the lords of the law dissipate time. Time was made for slaves and according to this theory no one who has ever touched the sacred precincts of the Law can ever be a slave. We are supposed to be conserving our strength, reducing the number of men in useless occupations and generally economizing in these strenuous times. But the court in session has a sheriff drawing three or four thousand dollars a year and there for the purpose of maintaining order in the court. That at least is the theory of the reason for his existence during the sitting of the court but we have no sheriff to maintain order in a church—we rarely need one at a political meeting. A court is a serious and solemn place and we will give this much credit to the judges in Calgary; we are thoroughly convinced that they could maintain order in a court house without any assistance. Take it from your Uncle Dudley that the judge who can maintain order among such obstreperous characters as James Shortt, McKinley Cameron, R.B. Bennett and Joe Clark; not to mention others of different ilk, needs no help from the sheriff or the mounted police to keep the ordinary visitors quiet.

Then there is another functionary there for the purpose of marking exhibits which the lawyers hand up to him from time to time. This seems to be all he has to do and rumor has it that in one sitting one of these officials actually went to sleep and did not wake until the janitor came along and threatened to sweep him out—and the court never discovered that the able functionary was taking a snooze.

Then reams of time are wasted in such trivial work as the selection of a jury. The jury is instructed to be there punctually on time. Fail not at your peril! Then the lawyers fitter away all the time there is to fitter and after about two hours they discover it would be possible to do without the jury altogether, so they are sent home and instructed to return next morning at ten o'clock. The same performance is gone through again and perhaps after two or three days the jury finally gets down to sitting on a case. All this, remember, at a stipend of a dollar a day. The jury is supposed to be serving the King, but the judges are paid—and they sure earn their money listening to all the trivial piffle of the lawyers—the lawyers are paid and seldom earn their money. Everyone gets everything that is coming to him with the exception of the jurors. They are supposed to serve their King—whatever this may mean in this connection—for a dollar a day and a feeling of disgust.

Our Municipal Research Bureau

There is another humorous thing at the present time, named a Municipal Research Bureau, of which Mr. T. Skinner is supposed to be the head. We do not know who the other leading factors in this organization are, but we can suggest a few. Why not T. J. S. Skinner, President; Dr. Blow, Manager; Wm. Pierce, Dr.

McRae and Mayor Costello as Directors. Taking this aggregation of gentlemen all together, they have got some ideas as to Municipal Administration! Never mind whether or not these ideas are good, bad or indifferent. They have ideas and after all a man with an idea always gets somewhere. Please note that we say nothing as to where he gets.

Why Pay Taxes?

The funniest thing in all the world is Calgary's system of collecting taxes. Alderman Arnold seems to be the only one who has any ideas in regard to this. All the rest of the people seem to be filled with the glorious conception of dodging their taxes and trusting to the Lord to see them through. Arnold's scheme of relief is better than this. Arnold proposes to put such a multiplicity of taxes of so many varieties and different kinds that every time a man opens his mouth, gets up, lies down, takes a drink, steps on the sidewalk, looks up to Heaven or down to hell, he will find one of Arnold's Tax schemes staring him in the face—at last disgusted with living this life of pain, he will rush down to the City Hall, seek out the Mayor, the father of all wisdom, say unto him: "I lay all my wealth at your feet."

Supposing the City went right out to collect this money—just went right at it as an organization of business men would, or here's a more horrible thought still! Suppose they turned over the collection of taxes to the Western Credit Men's Association, that aggregation of collectors of tough debts on First Street West! Do you suppose these men would sit down and wait? No, they would not. They would send out a stream of letters to everyone who is behind with his taxes. These letters would gradually get worse and worse. They would put a tear in them that would wither a cork leg or bring the blush of shame in one of Flavelle's pigs, with the result that the people would go right in and shoot their money across the counter. How could the City of Calgary be saved? Only by one means—that is the collection of taxes. The situation cannot be helped in any other way. The Mayor sometimes sheds tears of buttermilk at such a suggestion as this. He is horrified at the idea of robbing men of their homes, but there is a more horrible idea still. There is the possibility if no one is to pay his taxes, of having in Calgary a city in which it will not be worth while to make a home.

Who Owns the Government?

The "Grain Growers' Guide" is ranting again in its strained, modified, subdued and academic way, upon the question of the tariff. Pity the Guide! It has to maintain the semblance of resistance to the plutes while its officers are allied with them. The Government at present in power at Ottawa is doing all that it possibly can for the protection of the interests which placed it in power. The protectionists of the Province of Ontario constitute alike, the father, mother and wet nurse of the present protectionist Union Government at Ottawa. The Grain Growers' Guide exerts its energy to prove that the Grain Growers did not sell themselves to this Government. Certainly they did not. The men who handle the interests of the protectionists in Eastern Canada are wiser than that. They knew that they could not induce Tom Cramer to sell out to them at any price whatever, so it had

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to be put on a different basis. Tom Crerar and the Grain Growers' Organization and the Grain Growers' Guide were induced to give themselves away. They made no bargain for protecting the interests of the West. The plutes of the East think they have bargained for protecting the interests of the East. The innocent betrayers of their friends who had stood by them so long were the Grain Growers' Guide, Mr. Crerar and the officers of the Grain Growers' Grain Co.

* * *

THE TREATMENT OF CONSCIENCE

Mr. Whitehouse, M.P. in the British House of Commons, drew attention to the "appalling list of cases of insanity" in support of his plea for more enlightened treatment of conscientious objectors. Joseph King, M.P. for North Somerset, in seconding, accused the Home Office of favoritism, citing the case of Stephen Hobhouse as an example.

"Why has Stephen Hobhouse been let out? Because you dare not keep him in. He comes of a very distinguished family; he had an uncle in the House of Lords; he was a distinguished man himself. You dared not keep him in prison. You will keep many men in, even when you are warned they will die. They do, in fact, die. But you dared not keep Stephen Hobhouse in prison to die."

Ramsay MacDonald, in a powerful but temperate speech, cogent in argument and reason, pleaded for a more worthy policy than that of "merely punishing the conscientious objector and depriving the nation of his physical and intellectual labor." He also made emphatic protest against the treatment, amounting to insult of the representatives of the Russian Government.

"There are certain people, and certain sections in this country, who could be hanged, drawn, and quartered in the most illegal and unjust way, and great crowds of people would applaud the injustice. Conscientious objectors form one section, and Mr. Litvinoff and his Russian friends form another section."

* * *

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

TRUE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE To have members of Parliament that would be true servants, instead of masters, has long been the dream of the electorate. To get this, however, was a problem. It was tried for generations through the old party machines, but never worked. At last the N.P.L. idea came, which by paying election expenses directly from the people themselves, and allowing the people to draw up their own program of legislation, paved the way for a truer democracy.

The two able Non-Partisan members have justified already the confidence of all non-partisans. Mrs. McKinney and Mr. Weir did not go to Edmonton to add two more bumps to the Government log, they went there to work, to keep a keen eye on the people's business, and to further good legislation.

But not the least of their efforts has been that of keeping the common people in touch with legislative operations. This is a very important matter and is a new departure in Politics. Contrast this with the attitude of the party politicians between election times! People cannot be efficient citizens in any country if they are neither advised nor consulted on matters of importance. The Non-Partisan members both from the platform and with their pens, have given a good account of their stewardship during their first session in the Legislature, and if they continue this work in the coming years, as we believe they will, the people of Alberta won't be at any loss to know how to vote at the next election.

THE LAST MAN

"We will give our full man power, and at least half our wealth power in the struggle for democracy," was part of a message cabled by the Executive of the American Federation of Labor to the Interallied Labor Socialist conference in Britain. This seemingly patriotic and generous message may some day be quoted in history to indicate the materialistic domination of our age. To what a state of callousness civilization has come when human blood is accounted of so much less value than material wealth! One can understand the point of view of Huxley when he wished for a kindly comet to wipe the whole phantasmagoria out of existence unless there was some way of improvement.

This "money mind" of the age is the natural reflex of a commercial civilization. It is not confined to America, nor to any one country within the civilized world, it is general, and as pernicious as it is common. This is what we are doing in Canada, only we are not giving half our wealth as the States is doing. Dare we hope that the foundations of a new civilization are being laid, and that the time will come when a great country in a time of crisis will say, "We will pledge all our wealth and if need be half of our man power." When we arrive at this attitude of mind there will be no more war for the real human values shall have taken the place of power, of wealth and of nationalism.

TEN DAYS TO REPORT

During the last election campaign the N.P.L. candidates stood on a platform of conscription of wealth and men. They believed that it was imperative that not only men but wealth should be given for the national safety.

The Union Government, however, came out with a conscription of men program, farmers' sons to be exempted. This looked good to the farmer. He turned down the N.P.L. cold, and voted in the Union Government.

The election is over, and the office seekers are safe for five years or more if they wish it. They do not need to cater to the desires of the farmers, hence the new regulations regarding enlistment. Every man must report from the age of sixteen to sixty, and the young men of 20 to 22 must be in uniform within ten days.

We have no objection to this. We saw months ago that this step would be inevitable. We knew very well when so many exemptions were allowed before election that it was only a bait. But what we are interested in now is that the wealth has not

been conscripted. The farmer would have been a greater patriot had he voted for the N.P.L. and universal conscription, and the country would have been better prepared to defend itself. This sounds like an "I told you so" editorial, but how often do some people need to be told?

* * *

THE PRESS GANG

The Press Gang, a relic of Napoleonic wars, has made its appearance in Calgary. In 1812 the Press Gang

was used to arrest deserters and to make an occasional raid on peaceful towns and villages with a view to pressing men into active service. Historians tell us that the pleasant pastime of hunting men for active service which carried with it the right to search even a vessel on the high seas for suitable material is one of the reasons why the U.S.A. is not a colony of Great Britain to-day, as American-born citizens naturally resented the pleasantries of these gentlemen known as the Press Gang.

History, we are told, repeats itself; the Press Gang has been revived not for the purpose of compelling men to defend the State as of yore, but to give their labor at a low wage to some corporation whose chief concern in these days is to make profit.

The Union Government has decreed that every man must have a job. The Chief of Police is authorized to round up all those who are suspected of loafing. A round up took place one night on Ninth Avenue, among the poorer class; it is not on record whether the police visited the Palliser, the home of the real loafers, or not. The result of the round up was that quite a number of suspects were the guests of Chief Cuddy for a week-end, and as a certain local paper reported with a great deal of pride, not one was a Canadian.

These jobless criminals were lined up before the local magistrate, reprimanded and told to go to work. The whole crowd looked as if they had done nothing else but work all their lives. To be told to go to work some more had no terrors for them, the one difficulty seemed to be to find a job, that paid a decent wage.

The C.P.R. agent, always on the look-out for cheap labor, told the Magistrate that he could get work for fifteen hundred men at 25 cents per hour. Being duly admonished for not having a job by men who have a soft job, the strange crowd disappeared, or properly speaking, were pressed into industrial service.

The Press Gang of old guaranteed their victims a living, the modern Press Gang only guarantees a job. It is nobody's business whether the industrial conscript lives or not.

THE "CALGARY CANADIAN"

Its aim is to develop a Canadian sentiment that will lead to the unifying of our Canadian peoples through a national spirit.

No one will deny that a national spirit is the greatest need of Canada to-day. Without this spirit of Canadianism we shall never be able to unify our people. Racial and religious difference play havoc with unity and co-operation. The national spirit alone will cut across the racial and religious prejudices and give us a true Canadian nation.

Nationalism of the exclusive self-sufficient type we believe to be dangerous, tending as it always does to the building up of a monster machine which ultimately crushes the real human spirit. This kind of nationalism is built on fear and greed, and is at the bottom of all war. We do not want to repeat this in Canada. We want a nation built up on mutuality and service, and we believe this is the spirit which the "Calgary Canadian" is desirous to advance.

We extend to the Editor, Mr. George Thompson, our best wishes in his courageous venture, and believing in the virtues of his mission, we hope that great success will crown the efforts of the "Calgary Canadian."

* * *

GOVERNMENT CAN DO NO WRONG

An Order-in-Council which imposes a severe censorship on the Press has recently been passed in Ottawa. No criticism of the war, either as to its origin, or the motives behind it, will be allowed. Whatever policy the Government may choose to follow in respect to the conduct of the war must pass as right; no criticism will be allowed.

Without judicial hearing the Secretary of State may decide whether a paper is seditious or not, and on deciding this question he may close down the printing plant, impose a fine of \$5,000 and imprison the editor for five years.

There is also to be a chief censor of the debates in the House of Commons, and Hansard is to be carefully edited by the Speaker of the House. Thus does Democracy grow apace.

Hereafter we must be silent on these questions. If any of our readers think we are afraid to speak out in the NON-PARTISAN, let them pay our \$5,000 fine and go to prison for us, and we will show them that we are not afraid to write.

SAMUEL GOMPERS

Gompers made the statement in Cleveland that the American Socialist organization is but a branch of the German organization—it is part of the German propaganda, he exclaims with fervour. This is the same Gompers who refused to meet the Labor and Socialist parties of the Allied nations in a conference in London recently. In reply to an invitation to take part in the historic conference of February last, Gompers replied that he was afraid German gold inspired the conference. Such a reply would have been expected from a Northcliffe or a Beaverbrook, but not from a man who ought to know the Labor movement of Britain.

Gompers has but little faith evidently in men such as Henderson and McDonald who are blazing the trail for a greater democracy in Britain. But he is getting old and appears to have become the pliant tool of an unscrupulous coterie of profiteers who have been selected to sit on the Council of National Defence, judging by the report issued by Amos Pinchot, ex-chairman of the finance committee of this Council.

Mr. Pinchot commences his report by stating that as chairman of the finance committee, his aim was to try and persuade the American people that they ought to make an effort to finance the war out of current revenues, which meant that the vested interests would have to pay increased taxes. This ideal of Mr. Pinchot's was rudely shattered when he made the suggestion to his conferees on the committee, who were all representative of the big interests. So little encouragement did Mr. Pinchot get in his suggested inauguration of a reasonable system of taxation that he resigned.

Since then Mr. Pinchot has investigated the financial and business standing of his associates. He selected thirty-three members of the committee and discovered that they represented companies who were engaged in manufacturing war materials. The financial statements issued by those companies show on the aggregate a profit of Six Hundred and Forty Million Dollars over pre-war profits, and the pre-war profits represented a considerable sum. If thirty-three companies can make that much profit we will leave our readers to imagine how much the profiteers are getting away with.

Gompers, to our knowledge, has never once raised his voice to protest against such wholesale robbery; on the contrary he has advised labor not to strike, but to continue to work and pile up profits for those who are so vitally interested in the fight for

democracy. He is suspicious of the Huns abroad, but evidently quite friendly with the Huns at home. Gompers has always been held up as a paragon of virtue by the Press and the politicians, and this is the explanation. The labor movement within the Allied nations, although not always a potent factor has refused to be a party to such schemes but on the contrary has acted as a healthy check to the get-rich-quick patriots who thrive on war.

* * *

WANTED—A VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

The greatest barrier to social progress is not the active reactionary but the passive democrat. This fact is forcibly brought to mind by the attitude of the general public towards the strike of the restaurant help in Calgary for better conditions of labor.

We find that the restaurants unfair to organized labor are still enjoying the patronage of the general public in spite of the work of the picketers. Is it surprising that the restaurants hold out when they have the tacit support of the public in their fight against organized labor?

Here is a section of the working class who claim that their hours of labor and scale of wages are incompatible with a decent standard of living, yet we find that not a single organization in the City of Calgary outside of the labor unions has even felt disposed to investigate the matter. Not a single church has considered the strike important enough to warrant discussion. Yet the quality of citizenship undoubtedly depends on the happiness and independence of the people. If one class feels that their moral and physical development is retarded by unjust conditions of labor, surely it is the duty of the other classes in the community to hear those claims and to take steps to settle the matter in accordance with the best interests of the people as a whole.

We presume that if the citizens were insistent enough, the City Council would be forced to act as a board of arbitration and have the matter settled equitably; but the public has been inconvenienced very little by the strike, hence the cold apathy and indifference to the problems involved.

Calgary, and every other city, should have a vigilance committee composed of representative citizens to deal with such matters. Surely the community spirit is far enough developed now to awaken in each individual a responsibility that will not be content until justice is done in cases that affect so vitally the welfare of a section of the community.

The Non-Partisan Movement

NONPARTISAN PATRIOTISM

By Will Holmes

The party politicians and the ordinary reactionary are face to face with the scare of their lives in the appearance of the N.P.L. We have something to offer the public which no other political organization dare offer, viz., knowledge of the inner-workings of our system. This the people have demanded for all time and for all time it has been refused because its exposure would upset the game. The N.P.L. are not playing a game. Public affairs are not things to play with. They are serious business and the N.P.L. alone treat them as such. The old line party hatches its schemes in the privacy of a caucus and then springs them on the country. If we can unravel the scheme and get its true character before it is "put over" well and good, but if not, it goes "over" and the people go "under." The system we stand for is not one of scheming and "putting over." It is fair, square and open legislation for the good of the country.

What have our opponents to say? There is one cowardly resort, furnished by the sentiment of the times, the last kick of a dying cause, a final imprecation uttered with the hope that the last gasp may find a vital spot and save the day. So the dying mammoth of antiquity fires his parting shot and mutters, "Pro-German."

We meet this pro-German knock occasionally and it is characteristic of the element from which it comes. The pro-German epithet is being worked to death in these days by every craven wretch that has a bit of a grouch. It is the last curl of the disappearing tail of a whipped cur. If a book doesn't just fit his religious or political tastes it is pro-German. If a merchant asks a higher price for a commodity than he did last time, he is pro-German. If a lawyer pleads the cause of a conscientious objector, he is pro-German. If a preacher hits too hard he is pro-German. If you fight against booze you are pro-German. If you want it you are pro-German. If you long for peace you are pro-German. By this cry the Union Government urged its way to power. The corporation uses it to still all protest against its ruthless exploitation, and the profiteer hides behind it to shield himself from public interference.

Of course anything to hinder a new movement is considered legitimate. Any unfair or questionable tactics can be adopted and the epithet "pro-German" sounds bad. But what does it mean? Does it mean that we are traitors to our country? That we would rejoice in the triumph of German autocracy? That we stand to hinder the triumph of our people in this war? If the N.P.L. is unpatriotic, what about the people who vote the resources of the country into the hands of corporations about whom they scarcely know the name, much less the nationality of the shareholders, who vote to have legislation determined in secret by grasping vultures, who vote to deny to the people their rightful claim to self-government? What about the men who substitute party sentiment for efficiency, who substitute pull for character, and squanders fortunes in useless party campaigns in war-time? The supporters of the old line parties are guilty of all these pro-German acts, yet they are not traitors. They are ultra-patriotic, but their "Zeal is not according to knowledge."

THE NON-PARTISAN is the true patriot of to-day. He loves his country. He loves it so much that he wants to possess it, and wants to enjoy the fruits of its productivity. He loves its people, therefore he trusts them, and is willing to abide by their decisions. He takes pride in making his country the cleanest, healthiest and prettiest country, and its people the richest, freest and happiest people under the sun. THE NON-PARTISAN is the extreme anti-German. His democracy is the antithesis of German autocracy. He goes further than to fight for democracy abroad—he creates it at home. If there is anything in the survival of the fittest among nations, he is putting into his nation a truer democracy than yet exists, and is doing the one thing that will ensure our survival.

The N.P.L. is not without a record. One session of the Alberta Legislature has passed. The Independent members have been throughout a challenge to the quality of patriotism in the Liberal and Conservative ranks. On the right of the Speaker were the agents of the big interests springing their veiled conundrums and railroading them through. On the other side were the agents of the defeated interests barking at their big competitors. In front of the Speaker sat the small group, the agents of the people, the real patriots. No one dared to challenge our patriotism there, that was left for the back alley and the isolated haunts of cowardice.

Think it over, Mr. Sceptic. Are you satisfied with the legislation that emanates from the darkness? Do you like the game? Is legislation a thing of "putting one over" or is it serious business? If you are truly patriotic, if you love your country, do your bit. Read THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN, then pass it on, secure the membership of your neighbor and send it on to the Head Office, and make sure of your constituency for an independent Non-Partisan patriot in the next election.

* * *

THE FRAUD OF OLEOMARGARINE

You can no more compare brass to gold than you can compare oleomargarine to butter. The same tactics are used by the manufacturers, in advertising it as the fakir does in trying to sell his brass jewelry. They harp on its appearance and lay emphasis on the skim milk and butter which goes into its manufacture in such a way as to lead the consumer to believe that it is just as good as butter. But instead of being "the poor man's friend," it cheats him both in purse and stomach. In 1914 the packers had a profit of 47 per cent. for mixing the oils to make them look like butter. When sold without coloring it can be had at a price near its cost of production. When colored, it sells as near to the price of butter as the market will stand."

—DR. G. L. MCKAY, of Chicago.

* * *

THAT HAPPY DAY. WHEN--

A writer in the Sun, Toronto, says the Daylight Saving Bill soon bore fruit. The atmosphere at Ottawa has been dark owing to a preponderance of (k)nights and the prospect of an endless crop of them. Now some of the legislators are getting to see a little further than the end of their nose, the rays of the sun of democracy have begun to penetrate, and he trusts it will soon shine so brilliantly that all (k)nights and all other shadows will soon flee away.

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FORD AND CHEVROLET SPECIALISTS

Our Members in the Legislature

THE END OF THE SESSION.

By Mrs. McKinney, M.L.A.



The last ten days of the Legislature was a strenuous time indeed, and if there was any waste of time at the beginning of the session, this certainly could not be said of the closing days and hours. Indeed, there seemed a danger that many important measures would be put through without the consideration that was their due.

The real business of the Legislature was finished on Friday evening, April 12th, but the closing ceremonies took place on Saturday, when His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, came down to the House, gave his assent to fifty-seven bills, and formally prorogued the session—and everybody left for home. Among the measures that might be of special interest to our readers were the Act to incorporate the United Farmers of Alberta, the Municipal Hail Insurance Act, the bill to provide for a system of Highways, some amendments to the Statute Law, including amendments to the Liquor Act. Other bills were amendments to City Charters, and some Government measures governing taxation in various forms. One of these was opposed by your representatives, and that was the clause in the Mines Act whereby a tax of 5 cents a ton was placed on coal, for, to us, it seemed not a tax on the coal industry, but as nothing at all was done in regard to the fixing of prices, we felt that this was a direct tax on the consumer, as it would immediately be shifted from the mine owner to the poor man buying the coal.

A Civil Service reform bill was passed which did not receive unanimous approval, as all but Government supporters felt that it was wholly inadequate. It provides a position with a good salary for one man, but it deals only with what is known as the "inside" civil service, and this is not the class of employees that are supposed to constitute the danger element, and through whom patronage and party machinery have a chance to flourish.

The Municipal Hail Insurance Bill passed the House, but as one clause provides that it must be voted on by the Municipalities, you will probably hear more of it later on. In a separate bill the Government voted to guarantee the loans of the Hail Insurance Board so that they can borrow money to pay the claims when they become due, and not be forced to keep the farmers waiting till the taxes are all collected. The principal new features in the bill are that 45 municipalities must vote for the measure before it becomes operative; any municipality may decide to withdraw from the Insurance area, and any farmer in a municipality included may withdraw if he so desire. Only crop acreage is to be subject to levy. It is hoped that farmers will support the scheme when the municipalities vote on it.

In the bill to incorporate the United Farmers of Alberta there was one contentious clause and that was the one granting the right to administer estates, but the Government finally decided to let that pass.

In a previous article I mentioned a bill that was passed called the Supplemental Revenue Bill. This is a land tax in the rural parts of the province, and a mill rate in towns and cities and is intended to supplement the revenues of the Province—primarily for the meeting of the \$800,000 to be paid for the Patriotic Fund and the balance for general revenue. Various other taxation bills were passed during the last days. One provides for a tax on inheritance, where the estate is over \$10,000; another places a tax on gas companies, power companies, etc., and still another provides for an increased tax on commercial corporations doing business throughout the province, while a change in the Municipal law makes it possible to levy a special school tax of \$4.00 on every adult male non-taxpayer in towns and villages, where it is difficult to maintain the schools on account of the large proportion of the population being simply wage earners and not ratepayers.

In future the rural municipal unit will be the Municipal District; and the terms "Organized Municipality" and "Local Improvement District" will both be discarded. The method of taxation will be optional, but only those taxing on an

The chief amendment to the Liquor Act to which I referred above, was one defining and providing control of warehouses. These have been giving a great deal of trouble and were threatening to make much less effective the Order-in-Council recently passed by the Dominion Government as our courts had decided that a "warehouse" could legally receive consignments of liquor. While these existed ostensibly for export purposes, yet many of them were in fact the base of operations for blind piggers and bootleggers, but now they are under strict regulations.

In writing this article I had hoped to have before me a complete set of bills passed so that I could refer definitely to many of them, but unfortunately the parcel has not yet arrived from Edmonton, so I have had to write from memory and I may have failed to mention several more or less important measures. The bills as finally passed will soon be printed in pamphlet form and if any of our readers would like a copy of any one or more of them, you can get them by writing to 'The King's Printer', Government Buildings, Edmonton. We sent copies to some of you, but many of them were amended slightly before being finally passed.

The final injunction to all members before leaving for home was—do all in your power to encourage increased production and to secure a larger support for Red Cross work. The women are urged not to slacken their efforts in sending supplies, but both men and women are urged to give as generously as possible. Alberta is expected to at least double her cash contributions this year besides keeping up her share of supplies.

Incidentally, the Provincial Secretary expressed the hope that there would be many inquiries regarding Municipal Hospitals and the general program of his Health Department.

Your comrade,

LOUISE C. MCKINNEY.

HAVE THE INDEPENDENTS MADE GOOD?

By Jas. Weir, M.L.A.



The last issue of the Non-Partisan had just gone to press when the session of the Legislature at Edmonton prorogued. Since then several commentators have reviewed the deliberations with more or less fairness and ability, and I will, therefore, content myself with a few lines of perspective reference to what would appear to me to be the outstanding features of the session.

The first, of course, is the fact that a new era has dawned in the Province in that an independent group exists in the House and must be reckoned with. Whether or not in the opinion of the alien correspondent of a very loyal evening paper, any of them may be dubbed a "false alarm," there is no question that the old party lines in the House are dissolving; the jockeying for petty advantage has become unpopular, and is becoming ridiculous; that the governing body dare no longer, openly at least, undertake to rule by brute majority alone; and lastly, the independents, member for member, need not be ashamed of any comparison that may be made with any others in the House, whether, old or new, official or private.

The second outstanding fact borne in upon the close observer was that an enormous amount of costly and useless timber is used to form the "Ship of State" of Alberta. Out of 58 members, three of whom remained overseas and were not present, about a baker's dozen showed any reasonable excuse for their existence in the House. The places of the others could very well have been filled by clean sacks of good oat straw; in short, their room would be much more valuable, and, in many ways, preferable to their company.

One wonders if twenty-five members would not be enough in a province of 539,000 people; or say twenty chosen with some slight possession of raw material in the way of brains out of which to make intelligent legislators, pay them to devote their time to the study of public questions and keep them on the job just as long as they make good and no longer.

The third feature and the one which in the minds of many should have been placed first was the ingenuity with which new sources of taxation were discussed or devised.

New Sources of Revenue Tapped.

Additional revenue will be brought to the coffers of the provincial treasury department this year through four measures which received legislative sanction in the session of the legislative assembly just prorogued. These are: The Supplementary Revenue Act, the act amending the Amusements Tax Act, the act amending the Corporations Tax Act, and the Mine Owners' Tax Act.

Auto Licenses.

The revenue will also be supplemented by the new mode of arriving at the license fees paid by owners of automobiles which now is levied on a wheel-base basis. Last

year \$269,786 was collected under the Motor Vehicles Act. For this year the estimate is \$400,000, the calculation being made on the expectation of a larger number of automobiles in use as well as in the method of assessment.

Supplementary Revenue Tax

In respect to the act to supplement the revenue of the Province, the necessity for the legislation had its origin in the decision of the government to relieve the people of the Province of the collections for the Patriotic Fund. When Premier Stewart resolved to make a provincial contribution of \$800,000, which is being paid in monthly installments, it became necessary to make provision to pay the money obtained for this purpose. Hence the legislation. In the estimates \$1,000,000 was given as the expectation from this source. But the treasury officials are anything but sanguine that this amount will be gathered in and the skepticism arises from their experience of the first years' operation of any tax. Last year's collections from the Wild Land Tax, it is pointed out, do not warrant a conclusion that the whole million will be obtained. The act provides that whatever surplus there be over the \$800,000 goes into the general revenue of the Province.

By the Supplementary Revenue Tax an annual tax of a mill on the dollar is imposed on rateable land in every urban unit, while in rural units the rate varies from two to four cents an acre, according to the general quality of the land from an agricultural standpoint, in each unit, the amount of the tax being determined by the commissioner specially appointed for the purpose.

Corporation Taxes.

The amendments to the Corporation Taxation Act raise the rate on the principal office from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and on branches from \$125 to \$200. It is expected that this will yield \$250,000 more in revenue. The amount in the estimates as derivable under this act is given as \$239,100.

The Mine Owners' Tax Act imposes a tax of 5 cents a ton on all coal shipped off the mine property, except screenings or slack. The estimates give \$250,000 as the probable amount by which the revenue will be increased by the tax.

Amusements Tax.

By the change of the schedule, but more particularly in the broadening of the basis of its incidence, treasury officials anticipate an increase of some \$50,000 in the amount to be derived from the Amusements Tax. The sum collected last year was \$77,043. The tax is now applicable to all exhibitions, performances or entertainments, except those promoted for patriotic, charitable or religious purposes. During the discussion in the House, the minister, Hon. G. P. Smith, stated that the tax would also be inoperative with respect to races conducted in association with agricultural fairs.

The fourth feature was the organized opposition of the "whippers-in" of the Government side under the direction of the Provincial Treasurer to put every possible obstacle in the way of investigation of the Public Accounts, and especially the sale of bonds to the Dominion Securities Co., of which the minister's brother-in-law, J. A. Fraser, was, and is, Treasurer. We are now informed that the Company disbursed the first million of these bonds within three days of their purchase at

NO MORE "DUMMY" LEGISLATORS!



Jas. Weir states:—"Out of fifty-eight members only about a dozen showed any reasonable excuse for their existence in the House. The places of the others could very well be filled by clean sacks of good oat straw." Read article on page Eight.

94,70, making on that transaction alone \$30,000. Oh! You brother-in-law!

Deputy Treasurer Newson gave as the excuse a dull market, for not tendering and not notifying representatives of rival companies. Well, there is the fact, as to how dull it was, and by the way Mr. Newson stated on oath that these representatives didn't come round as usual, but when confronted with the possibility of proof to the contrary, admitted that his memory had been "refreshed," and he wasn't the only one whose memory was refreshed. All the justification the member for Nanton requires for his action in regard to the loss to the Province of over \$30,000 through this deal alone is the assurance of Premier Stewart that: "NEVER AGAIN SO LONG AS HE IS PREMIER WILL ANY MORE PROVINCIAL BONDS BE SOLD, EXCEPT BY TENDER!"

It would be interesting to note some of the surprises and disappointments of the session, especially on the part of members from whom great things were expected, but whom like the New Liberalism, failed to even make the proverbial "flash in a pan" and others from whom little was hoped, who gave evidence of great usefulness to the Province in future.

In view of certain opinions expressed to the effect that I had not the support I

had a right to expect from members of the Opposition, I wish to say that from every member of the House on both sides, and, of course, among the Independent group, with the exception of the little ring that the Premier thinks as little of as I do, I had the utmost courtesy and unbounded support, and without in the slightest degree discounting the help of all I wish to take this opportunity of paying the full need of praise to Mr. A. F. Ewing whose trained legal mind, familiarity with the procedure, and experience in the House, I found as invaluable as they were freely and courteously given. —JAS. WEIR

"WHAT FARMERS MUST LEARN?"

At a Union Meeting of U.F.O. Clubs in the Star Theatre, Tilbury, April 4th, the object of the meetings was stated as follows:—"To teach farmer how to vote, what politicians expect of farmers, and what farmers expect of politicians, the value of the U.F.A. organization compared to other organizations; to see that the war debt of the Dominion was rightly collected and not all paid by the farmer; to teach the farmer to have more confidence in himself, in his organization, and to stand firm for his rights."

—The Toronto Sun.

The Non-Partisan Letter Box

BETTER BABIES

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

I notice in the "Letters from Home" page, in your last issue, an article dealing with "Baby Welfare" or Better Babies, which is now receiving so much attention at all Social Reform conventions, etc., etc. So much so, that the Women's Institutes have adopted "Better Babies" as their slogan for the year. I was particularly pleased with the article I have just mentioned, because the writer of it touched on a phase of the subject, which to me is of first importance in dealing with the matter if we are to have any successful results, and until it is remedied all we can do will be work in vain.

There is not much use trying to save the branches of a tree if a canker is eating at the root and just so in dealing with the children problem. So long as mental, physical and moral units are allowed to reproduce their kind (and these always seem to be very prolific) there is not much hope of securing "Better Babies." Apparently, the question of first-importance with our learned Law-givers, is a high birth-rate and no restrictions are imposed anywhere which would interfere with this insane demand. Quantity, not quality, is the ruling factor and I am afraid will be until a sufficient body of women are placed on Government seats. Anyone who doubts this need only read the debate on the Franchise Bill at the present session of the Ottawa House and their doubts will take wings at once. We have not only the mental and physical units to deal with. What about those splendid married women who are persecuted with endless, unwelcome maternities, until their health and strength is gone and still there is no escape. And just how many hundreds of them there are. Talk about bondage! The first thing for us to do is to control the birth-rate by eliminating all the units; by allowing the wise mothers the right to say how many children she can bear and rear properly and I am satisfied when this is done the need for "Better Babies" campaigns will have automatically vanished, and our population will be peace-loving, law-abiding and one hundred per cent. efficient.

—ALBERTA CUNDAL

BELIEVES IN THE LEAGUE

Youngstown, Alta.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

Please send me some sample copies of your NON-PARTISAN paper, and you can rely on my distributing them to U.F.A. locals, etc., in the district. I am enclosing \$5 for some subscribers' names, and you may look for more to follow.

I am living in the Acadia constituency, and as I am in full sympathy with the object of your League in its fight for the interests of humanity, anything I can do to further the interests of the League in this district, you can rely on being done. I heard you lecture when in Calgary, and would like for you to address meetings in this district, so that we could get a branch of the League started out here.

Yours truly,

—H. A. WIERTZ.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

The Alberta Non-Partisan:

Sirs,—Enclosed please find one dollar, subscription for Non-Partisan. Keep up the good work.

Yours for real Democracy,
P. L. BROOKS.

A BRIDLED PRESS

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

I want to thank you for publishing my articles on "Cheap Money." I sent eight copies to different papers and they all turned them down except the NON-PARTISAN, and one other local paper. Now, I did not expect the Party papers, owned by the big interests, would publish my letters, but the editors of two of the papers claimed to be Independent and were not afraid of the big interests. I thought I would put them to the test for remember there is nothing that would put the cold steel into the hearts of the "big interests" like cheap money on the New Zealand system, and nothing that would be such a blessing, to the farmers and all the wealth producers.

I will give you the excuse given by some of the editors. A Liberal paper defended the Alberta Government by claiming the Dominion did not furnish the security for the Province to furnish cheap money for the settlers on account of the Province not owning her public resources. Remember, in January, 1917, at the U.F.A. Convention when the Finance Minister promised cheap money they did not own their public resources. The Editor of a Conservative paper claimed my articles would apply to normal times, and not War conditions, and that they would be picked to pieces by the Banks. The editor of a farm journal which is not supposed to be controlled by the big interests refused to publish the articles on account of the way they were written, claiming I had not made out a case for cheap money. This is the second letter that was turned down by the same editor for the same reason. It seems peculiar that my last letter that he turned down I had published in two or three other papers, and an editor of an independent paper printed five thousand pamphlets of the articles, free, and one U.F.A. local voted a grant of \$5.00 to pay expenses on the pamphlets.

Strathcona U.F.A. local No. 1 passed a resolution of appreciation of the letters I had written. Now I have not got the big head, but I cannot understand why I can get my letters on "Cheap Money" published in independent papers and not in the Farm Journal. I asked one editor whom I knew well, why he did not publish my letters, he replied: "You know the reason. I cannot live on sentiment. I am interested just now in raising \$500. If you write something that will interest the business element, I will publish it." I said I was more interested in the farmers and other wealth producers getting the full product of their toil than in writing glowing accounts about the prospects in the West for the benefit of land speculators. He replied: "I cannot run a newspaper on the support I get from that element, they do not appreciate any effort put forth in their behalf. You may think that we newspaper men mould public opinion, but that is a great mistake, for the big interests get together and dictate the policy we are to follow."

FARMERS, WILL YOU EVER GET WISE! Can you grasp the significance of that statement? But you say, "What can we do to help?" Subscribe for the NON-PARTISAN, the champion of political independence. Buy your supplies from the merchants that advertise in its columns.

Yours truly,

WM. R. BALL,
Deer Mound P.O.

NOTICE



In the Matter of the
Enforcement of "The
Motor Vehicle Act"

NOTICE is hereby given that the provisions of The Motor Vehicle Act are to be rigidly enforced. There is no defence for a person operating an unlicensed motor vehicle at this date, as immediate delivery of Automobile Number Plates may be obtained not only at the Departmental Office at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, but also from the Clerks of the Court at Peace River, Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Stettler, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Bassano, Macleod and Taber, and from the Process Issuers at Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Lloydminster, Sedgewick, Hardisty, Coronation, Vermilion, Wainwright, Oyen and Youngstown.

The Motor Vehicle Inspectors of the Department have instructions to see that the Act is strictly enforced in its entirety.

Dated at Edmonton this 11th day of April, A.D. 1918.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

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Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

FOREWORD

In this issue we begin a series of letters from our Ottawa correspondent. He is one of the ablest newspaper men in the Dominion of Canada. He is a man with the higher ideals of Journalism and looks at things from that broad standpoint unfortunately more characteristic of the English radical than of any party we have in political life in the Dominion. The spirit and courage of the man is shown by his letter to us in which he says:—"I will be glad to contribute some articles on the situation at Ottawa—not just for what there is in it, but to help one of the few papers in the Dominion which is not controlled more or less by the sinister influences which are working such evils in the political life of Canada."

* * *

Ottawa, April 18th, 1918.

The new Parliament of Canada has now been in session for nearly a month and definite impressions of its capacity for public service are beginning to crystallize. The soldiers' vote substantially increased the Government majority and the Unionists have now a preponderance of 153 to 82, almost double. Naturally the seriousness of the crisis in France hangs like a pall over the whole assembly but in spite of this there are signs that the House differs in some degree from other by-gone Canadian Parliaments. The Cabinet can command a powerful majority on all questions relating to the war but there its control of the situation more or less ends. In the past members gave their allegiance to a Cabinet because it contained certain men whose leadership and policies they worshipped and followed as the light of the gospel. There is no such absurd confidence in, and devoted attachment to, the existing Union Cabinet for it lacks the moral backing which a victory secured by fair tactics and an honest contest would have given.

The Government itself is not so much a Government as a bundle of personalities collected together, then thrown out haphazard as a gambler throws dice and left to fall as they please. Of the Conservatives, Sir Robert Borden is well-meaning, ponderous and dull, Sir George Foster is aged, cynical and able as of yore, and Mr. Meighen is young, cynical and sophistical as of yore. Sir Thomas White and Mr. Cochrane, who are perhaps the ablest of the Tories, are both in bad health and a strange mystery envelopes the former in his Californian retreat, from which he is soon expected to emerge. Mr. Crothers has just succeeded in ridding the country of Mr. W. F. O'Connor, author of the report of the profiteering pork-packers, one of our most important and fearless officials, on the pretext of some quarrel about a fair employee, but it is suspected that the tale disclosed to the public was merely camouflage to conceal the operations of the "Interests." Of the Liberals, Mr. Calder is said to be indefatigable in his labors, and Mr. Sifton sits glued to the front bench without a break, and with an inscrutable smile of Machiavellian cynicism on his face. Mr. Crerar looks like a boy, among venerable Nestors but pleases and attracts friend and foe. Both General Mewburn and Mr. Ballantyne make good business statements for their departments but it will require, we imagine, some trespass upon the preserves of the protected interests to

arouse the Minister of Marines to "real brilliance. Mr. Rowell presides over the Privy Council with great spiritual fervour and lends an air of respectability to the rest of the Cabinet but he is probably the most unpopular figure in the whole House. Of him alone among the Unionist Liberals do the Laurierites speak with contempt. He is a Methodist clerical of a breed as dangerous to democracy as any ultramontane and Mr. Murphy's bitter attack upon his "commercialized christianity" did not excite any marked indignation in the Unionist ranks. The other members of the Cabinet are too dull and uninspiring to form a subject of comment.

Among the rank and file there is a good deal of healthy independence which breaks out into open criticism at intervals. Dr. Michael Clark who is desperately anxious to prove to the world that he is not a Tory, launches, at every opportunity, into free trade speeches which cause great pain to Mr. Cockshutt but wreath in genial smiles the faces of Messrs. Henders, Maharg and other Westerners. Mr. Steacey of Chilliwack, and Mr. Hume Cronyn of London, strike the observer as useful and able members on the Unionist side. Mr. W. F. Nickle of Kingston who is Conservative more in name than anything else is one of the best friends of democracy in the House. He has courage, character and ability and is a champion of every progressive cause.

It would be a mistake to rate the opposition as altogether a negligible quantity. An opposition's effectiveness depends on its quality rather than its quantity. The best opposition that Westminster ever knew was the small band of Whigs who followed Fox, Grey and Sheridan in the years from 1793 onwards. It is true that the Liberal party has lost some of its best leaders but it has also been purged of some of its most unwholesome elements. No progressive need mourn over the exile from parliamentary life of pseudo-liberals like Messrs. E. M. MacDonald, Pugsley and Graham, and if Messrs. Guthrie, Pardee, Nesbitt and other Liberal Unionists, take up their final abode under Sir Robert Borden's wing they will have found their true spiritual home. Sir Wilfrid naturally dominates his party just as Gladstone did in his declining years and carries on in almost solitary state the traditions of the great gentleman in Canadian politics. The French-Canadians who form the main strength of his cohorts have many youngsters in their ranks and display a variety of political skill and culture which compares favorably with the fare proffered by their opponents. Most of them are bilingual and it is a pity that more of our Anglo-Saxon members do not duplicate their knowledge of languages. The French opposition to Woman Suffrage was a strangely il-liberal proceeding but it is a common feature of all Catholic countries. The Liberal Catholics fear the priests will organize and control the feminine vote and the clericals are anxious lest the energies of women be diverted from religion to politics. There are twenty English-speaking members in the opposition and among these is Mr. S. W. Jacobs, the first Jew ever elected to Ottawa, and Mr. A. R. McMaster, Sir Wilfrid has two recruits who are superior in knowledge and capacity to any lieutenants that he has possessed for many a long day. They are now beginning what ought to be very useful public careers.

On the Government side, Sir Robert Borden has a motley team to drive. His

followers range from violent radicals to hide-bound Conservatives, from convinced Free Traders to rabid Protectionists. The main bond of unity is a desire to keep Quebec in order and concentrate Canada's resources of men and material on the war. but the efficient use of Canada's resources is bound up with the inauguration of certain internal reforms and over the solution of these some crises and fissures are likely to rise.

There have been some interesting debates of which the one on titles, started by a resolution of Mr. W. F. Nickle, was the most illuminative. It revealed the fact that the democratic feeling in Canada often smothered by materialism and corroded by corrupt politics was not dead, but slumbered. The House was unanimously against hereditary titles, which the Government was willing to ban and Mr. R. L. Richardson's amendment to banish all titles from Canada would have passed in the then temper of the Commons had not Sir Robert Borden interposed with a plea for titles won on the battlefields and adjourned the House to secure a compromise formula. The return of Mr. Richardson to public life is a fortunate event. He has political experience, a fundamental passion for democracy and a habit of speaking his mind. He seems likely to head the group of Western radicals who will give the Government general support upon war measures but will reserve the right to act independently on economic and social questions. The Government is obviously anxious about the restive Westerners and they in turn are anxious about the constituents they have left behind them. It is clear that whenever trouble threatens the remedy will be to apply cement in the shape of an anti-Quebec debate. There has already been one such and the rehash of racial and religious squabbles was infinitely depressing. The best friends of the Catholic hierarchy, if they only knew it are Orange bigots like Col. J. A. Currie and Dr. Edwards. Catholicism will never be reformed either by the abuse of Presbyterian fanatics or the spiritual contempt of Methodists obviously out to make the best of both worlds.

The enemies of democracy and the oppressors of the plain folk of Canada are extremely anxious that the political issues of the next decade should take the form of "British versus French and foreigners" and many pens and voices are to-day busy steering things in that direction. Nothing could suit the "interests" and the "male-factors of great wealth" so well as this development and on the task of averting it all intelligent and progressive minds must be concentrated.

At present all issues are dwarfed by the fateful clash of arms in Flanders. The Government have called a secret session of the House presumably with a view to passing amendments to the Military Service Act and securing additional reinforcements. Sir Robert Borden and some of his colleagues have carried on the Government of Canada in regard to war measures as if the war would only last a few weeks more and have managed their peace preparations as if peace would never come. They fail to realize that we are now in the midst of one of the great transformations of human society such as have befallen the world at various epochs, like the break up of the Roman Empire and the Reformation, and they blissfully imagine that tinkering and patching of the old social order will suffice instead of wholesale reconstruction such as Britain, and the United States are planning. They will learn their error perhaps when the storm is upon them. —"BYSTANDER."

A Non-Partisan Legislature

A LEGISLATURE THAT WORKS

To illustrate the efficacy of a legislative assembly elected to serve the people instead of certain interests, we reproduce an article from the American Review of Reviews, which deals with what was accomplished in North Dakota in the recent special session of the Legislature of that State. Our readers will remember that C. W. McDonnell, a Non-Partisan member of the North Dakota Legislature who was visiting his father and brothers who reside at Loughheed, Alberta, was unable to speak at the Non-Partisan rally in Calgary on account of suddenly being called home to attend a special session of the Legislature.

This Legislative Assembly composed largely of members of the Non-Partisan League, acted promptly in an emergency which the Federal authorities had admitted their inability to tackle, and inside of three days had devised means whereby the farmers could borrow money from their counties at a reasonable rate of interest, to enable them to put in their crops. This patriotic action which will stimulate production in North Dakota, should be an effective answer to those critics who claim that the Non-Partisan League members are disloyal to the State.

The article in question follows:

"A serious economic condition had resulted from the fact that there had been two successive crop failures in the western and central portions of North Dakota. In 1916 the wheat crop was destroyed by black rust; in 1917 all crops, including even fodder, were almost completely a failure in that region on account of drought. In those localities where the loss was not total, only a small fraction of the normal crop was harvested.

"Two bad years in succession had driven most of the farmers in the newer parts of the State to a condition of desperation in the matter of credit. Most of these men had purchased their farms with borrowed money, and had then re-mortgaged them to the limit of their value. But as this did not prove sufficient they had made their personal property the basis for yet additional credit. At the beginning of 1918, a year in which the nation demands increased production of all farmers, many of these in North Dakota had mortgaged land, horses, cattle, and even farming implements to the last dollar of their value. They had no seed grain and had almost exhausted feed for their stock. Retail stores in that part of the country, unlike those in the South, usually operate on a cash basis. In order to buy groceries

and clothing for their families many farmers were compelled to sell their scanty supplies of grain.

Usually North Dakota raises one-seventh of the country's wheat. In this year, when the maximum wheat crop is called for, the farmers of the State are eager to do their full share; but even to seed a normal acreage they must have both seed-grain for sowing and feed for their work horses. Thousands lack both of these commodities and have nothing to offer in exchange for them except liens on the unsown crop.

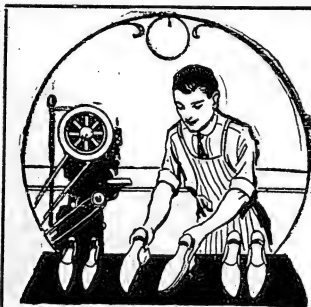
'How could these needy farmers get an extension of credit and thus be enabled to do their share in the nation's war work for the year? They were already owing the local banks quite as much as the State Bankers' Association thought justifiable under present conditions. When they applied to the Federal Government for aid, Congress was unable to assure them any substantial relief, and the recently created system of land banks could do no more than to give them somewhat better terms, instead of adding to the credit that they already have.

"In the absence of Federal relief, Governor Lynn J. Frazier, who had been elected to office by the farmers through the agency of the Non-Partisan League, summoned the State Legislature to deal with the emergency as it might. Within three days after assembling, the lower house adopted a measure to enable the counties where need exists to issue bonds and lend the proceeds to farmers on their personal notes, payable at harvest time. The amount allowed each farmer will be decided by the County Commissioners on the basis of affidavits as to the number of acres he will seed, and the amount of seed and feed he has on hand.

"The State Commissioner of Agriculture will supervise the distribution of seed to the counties where needed, seeing to it that pure seed is furnished to the farmers at the lowest possible cash prices. No county can assume an obligation amounting to more than 5 per cent. of the assessed valuation of its property. In the districts where relief is needed, the new law will make available from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000."

*** WISDOM!

Many United Farmers' Clubs, Ontario, have gone on record as opposed to the Daylight Saving Bill, and have unanimously resolved that agricultural implements free of duty would be of much greater benefit to the farmers of Canada in their endeavor for greater production.



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LIFE AND WORK

SIGNS OF THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER Article I.

There is every indication that the old social order with its individualism in industrial affairs, its exclusive nationalism leading to self-sufficiency and decay, and its otherworldism in religion, will be broken up by the great world war. The finger of fate which indicates the tendency of the times is to some people the handwriting on the wall, while to others it is observed in the hope of a greater future. Those who sit in the cushioned seats of the mighty, enjoying privileges at the expense of the masses, are afraid as the grey of the approaching dawn breaks in a new civilization. Those who have wielded autocratic power in the old regime will find that the new social order will begin by demanding that they step down and hand the reins to the people; they will come to see that the order they have maintained by virtue of power was a disorder, and the "rights" they have held by might are in reality wrongs.

But are the "people" prepared to take the reins of our industrial and political life? This is a question which after the seeming failure of the Russian people must be answered, and one which must be answered in the negative if we judge ourselves from previous actions.

But the new social order will come like the dawn, not like the lightning or the thunder peal, and it will find as it comes men and women to lead, and people to do and dare and die. There is no more encouraging sign of the New Age that is dawning than is to be found in the awakening interest among the common people. Demos is beginning to think. For centuries we have taken our thoughts as we took the fashions in dress; the priest or pastor thought for us in religious matters, while the politician did our political and economic thinking. The masses followed like a flock of sheep. There is no use blaming those who have been doing our thinking hitherto. The flock of sheep

runs from the wolf, not so much because of the wolf's wolfiness, as from their own sheepiness. So have we followed in the past. The question for us in Canada is—are we going to be able to move as fast as the call of the times demands?

There is a new spirit abroad in Canada which we believe has been born in the fulness of time, and will shape our destiny in the future. The selfishness which stalked about a few years ago in open defiance of virtue now hides itself in shame; individualism, greed, hypocrisy and political rottenness cannot face the Canadian graves in Flanders. We are being purged as if with fire, and are gradually revaluing the things of life, and preparing to lay the foundations of a great new human commonwealth.

This new spirit is bubbling up everywhere. It is because of its presence that we are so much alive to the questionable dealings of men in authority. Another year of war, and to become wealthy will be an unspeakable disgrace. It is not long since wealthy men were considered to be worthy of the highest honor. In times gone by a poor man who stole five dollars would have been sent to prison, but the man who could get away with a million acres of land, a banking system, or a railroad, was knighted and sent to Parliament. But wealthy men to-day are beginning to feel ashamed of themselves; they are beginning to apologize for their millions. One man in particular who made over 80 per cent. profit on a war contract, spent a great part of his profit in trying to prove that he did not make it. Yes! This new spirit says—"There is no way to become wealthy but at the expense of others;" it says, "I am ashamed to make a fortune while Canadian boys are dying in France for a dollar and ten cents per day in order to protect my industry." It says further—"That the industries, and resources for which these men have fought must henceforth belong to their children."

GRAND THEATRE

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The Musical Comedy Star in
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F. J. Dixon, M.L.A. of Winnipeg

Independent Progressive member of the Manitoba Legislature, who has had a wide experience in platform speaking on behalf of the cause of democracy, will visit Alberta during May. Will address U.F.A. at Three Hills, Friday, May 24th; the Calgary Forum Sunday 26th; U.F.A. Vulcan, Monday 27th. Can fill in a couple more dates. For terms and particulars, write at once to J. H. Ford, 410 Leeson & Lincham Bldg., Calgary. Subjects—"The Canadian Commonwealth," "The Power of Ideals," "How to Get Rich Without Working," "The Bread and Butter Question," "Things Worth While."

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AT THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

A crowded house greeted W. D. Bayley, B.A., of Winnipeg, at the Calgary People's Forum on March 31st, when he spoke on: "Will British Labor Follow Russia?" Mr. Bayley, who is a pleasing speaker with the happy knack of keeping his audience in a good humor, gave a very interesting and instructive address. Having recently spent a year in Great Britain and France Mr. Bayley had many opportunities of conversation with British Labor Leaders and is therefore in a position to speak with some authority on this question. He described the great demonstration of British Labor in the Albert Hall, London, in support of the Russian Revolution and read extracts from some of the speeches. This immense gathering of ten thousand people was permeated with the spirit that animated the Russian people in their fight against autocracy, and the depth of sincerity of the speakers in their determination to stand by the Russian revolution met with an enthusiastic response from the audience. Mr. Bayley thinks that while the aims of the British Labor Party are similar to those of the Bolsheviks, the methods adopted will be different. British Labor will never advocate the revolutionary method until all constitutional means have been tried and found to be a failure. The Russian people were denied the constitutional opportunities and were forced by their rulers to adopt the bayonet as a means of accomplishing their emancipation.

The British Labor Party have adopted a programme which reveals some of the steps at least that will be taken to reconstruct society in Britain if the Labor Party is returned to power.

The Universal Enforcement of the National Minimum.

The Democratic Control of Industry.

The Revolution in National Finance.

The Surplus Wealth for the Common Good.

Those are the four pillars of the house they propose to erect, resting upon the common foundation of the democratic control of society in all its activities. Mr. Bayley, while admitting that the Russians took the only course open to them, believes that the strongest and most effective institutions will be built up as a result of the people becoming more enlightened and better informed on political and economic problems. In answer to the many questions after the address, he constantly emphasized the need for drastic changes in our educational systems and pointed out that in our schools the children were presented with historical facts compiled not so much with a regard for the truth as with a desire to present Canadian and British history in the most favorable light to the impressionable mind. Mr. Bayley is firmly convinced that the same spirit which precipitated the Russian revolution is alive in the British Labor Party to-day and is only seeking the means to reconstruct society which will be most advantageous to the present stage of industrial development in that country.

In closing he made a plea for the solidarity of Canadian Labor who may find unless a supreme effort is made, that they are unable when the time comes, to perform their part in this great movement for social justice.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

A National Committee appointed in England has issued a report giving average expenditure on food calculated from 2,000 working families with every item carefully detailed, and the rising cost of the simple family budget traced through every month of the war. It shows that what could be purchased for 22s. 6 d. in 1904, cost 25s in July, 1914, and had risen to 53s. 3d. in January, 1918!! That statement should be the workers' all-sufficient answer to the shallow chatter about "high wages" during the war."

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The Woman of the Future

A NEW POLITICAL FORCE

"O Woman, in our hours of ease
Uncertain, coy and hard to please;
When pain and anguish wring the brow
A ministering angel, thou."

No doubt those words of Shakespeare did at one time fairly well sum up the average male's conception of the endowments and function of women, but through the exigencies of war principally, she has now firmly entrenched herself in the industrial life of the nations and can no longer be treated as something to be humored and petted and dismissed with a "There, there, my child, run away and play."

The granting of six to eight million women the vote in Great Britain is an epoch-making event in the history of that country. It is just over fifty years ago that John Stuart Mill in the House of Commons proposed to substitute the word "person" for "man" in the act conferring the franchise, but public opinion at that time was overwhelmingly against this innovation. Through the burning zeal of a small band of men and women the agitation for Woman Suffrage has been carried on during the past twelve or fifteen years in the teeth of strong opposition, and misrepresentation. Boycotted by the Press, and made the butt of jesting in the House of Commons, subjected to the sneers of the educated and the taunts, jibes and violence of the ignorant, they have never suffered themselves to be diverted from their great objective. True they have not yet secured equal franchise rights with men, but this cannot be long delayed now, as the restrictive age limit is wholly indefensible unless extended to men also. With the movement for Woman Suffrage making great strides in the United States, and the Union Government pledged to grant the vote to women here in Canada, a new force has definitely entered into world politics.

Sociologists tell us that the male is the creative, while the female is the conservative factor in Society, and it is somewhat interesting to speculate on the changes the influence of women in politics will undoubtedly bring about. Man has stamped his lust for battle upon all the institutions which he has moulded. Party Politics within the State, foreign diplomacy, trade relationships, his art and literature, even his education and religion, are branded. The visible failure of civilization is attributable to the fact that it has been a faithful register of the efforts and aspirations of one-half of humanity.

When woman becomes conscious of her growing power it is safe to say that her inherent pacifism and deepseated reverence for the lives she bears will stamp itself upon every branch of politics. The different functions that nature has assigned to paternity and maternity cannot fail to deeply affect all the valuations which men and women respectively set upon human conduct and institutions.

It is claimed by those who oppose the entry of women into politics that they do not as a rule possess the powers of initiative, the mental energy and dominant will which it is implied the male has developed to a remarkable degree, and which qualities have enabled him to guide the destinies of the race up to the present time. But has not man's ingenuity and subtlety in professional diplomacy led the nations of the world into a tremendous debauch wherein the sacredness of human life is

one of the very smallest considerations? Woman's instinctive regard for the home, the family and the species, will certainly greatly influence her attitude on international policies. Her voice in the peace conference (and there is no reason why one-half of the race should be excluded from the peace negotiations) would undoubtedly be raised against secret diplomacy, national competition in armaments and economic treaties that promote distrust and sow the seed of future wars. Her knowledge of the youthful mind would enable her to institute great changes in our educational systems which at present are not so much concerned with teaching the children how to live together as they are with stuffing the mind with historical incidents which tend to foster a national spirit intolerant of everything outside the limits of their own national boundaries.

However, this new force is somewhat problematical and we can only surmise what its influence will be in politics, from the tendencies that are already apparent and from what has been accomplished by women in the industrial field. One fact is established beyond dispute, and that is that the war has broken down the economic barriers that might have taken generations to remove, and that woman is in the industrial field to stay. This involves self-determination in the matter of marriage and child-bearing, and opens up fields of endeavour which tradition and custom have kept closely barred to women's aspirations.

— WAYFARER.

* * *

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The Amusement Tax Act



To take Effect on,
from and after May
1st, 1918

Every person attending an exhibition, performance or entertainment at a place of amusement to which an entrance or admission fee is charged shall on each admission thereto pay an amusement tax at the following rates:

- (1) When the price of admission is from 10c to 20c inclusive, a tax of 1c.
- (2) When the price of admission is more than 20c and not more than 75c, a tax of 2½c.
- (3) When the price of admission is more than 75c and not more than \$1.00 a tax of 5c.
- (4) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.
- (5) When the price of admission is more than \$2.00, a tax of 25c.
- (6) A tax of 25c shall be paid by every person attending any boxing bouts or contests.
- (7) Where admission is given by pass or complimentary tickets a tax shall be payable at the highest rate charged for the performance to which admission is granted.

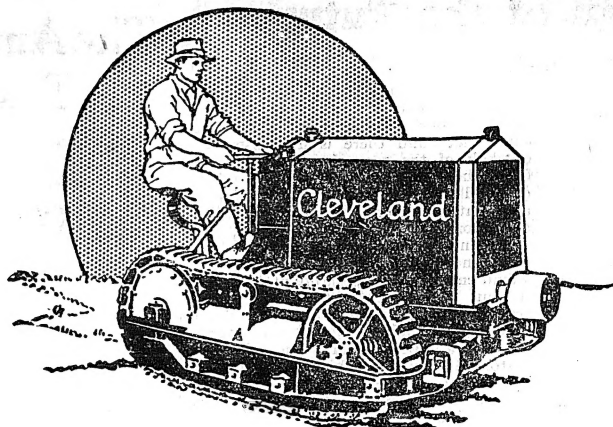
PENALTIES

Every person who, without having previously paid the tax provided by this Act, enters a place of amusement in the province for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 for each offence, and in default of the payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

Every owner of a place of amusement and every employee of an owner of a place of amusement who permits or authorizes or is a party or privy to the admission of any person to a place of amusement for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game there-in without payment of the tax provided for by this Act, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$200.00 for each offence, and, in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Edmonton, April 15th, 1918.



The Cleveland Tractor

THE TASK BEFORE THE CANADIAN FARMERS

Over a BILLION bushels of wheat must be produced in Canada and the States this year. This enormous production must be largely increased in 1919.

An enormous increase in the yield of oats, barley and other produce is necessary.

Thousands of extra acres must be cultivated. Each individual farmer must produce one-third more grain than last year, and then increase his production in 1919.

The task before Canada's farmers is stupendous. Intensive methods of every kind must be employed. Machinery must take the place of muscle wherever possible.

In the face of this emergency the CLEVELAND TRACTOR becomes an absolute necessity. Its tremendous value to the farmer is emphasized more than ever. The CLEVELAND TRACTOR not only conserves time and labor—it does far CHEAPER AND BETTER work. And by doing better work it makes possible the production of larger and better crops—enabling you to do your part for the Government—AND MAKE MORE MONEY FOR YOURSELF.

The CLEVELAND TRACTOR shows the way. It plows $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour—8 to 10 acres a day. It travels on its own tracks, like the great "tanks" of Europe. It will go practically anywhere—through ditches, gumbo, sand and gravel. It is steered by the power of its own engine—simply and easily, and will turn around in a twelve-foot circle.

It will not pack the soil, will not mire, will not slip or flounder. It has 600 square inches of traction surface. The track is designed for long service. The sections are constructed to prevent filling or packing with mud, and protection is provided to prevent dirt and mud from falling into the track. The sections are joined with hardened steel pins, which have their bearings in hardened steel bushings. The CLEVELAND TRACTOR weighs less than 3,200 pounds. It can be housed in less space than is required for one horse.

The Cleveland develops 12 h.p. at the draw bar for hauling and gives 20 h.p. at the pulley belt—plenty for stationary work of all kinds.

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Prepare NOW to produce the enormous crops which we must have—and incidentally make more money for yourself. Get ready now for the task Canada has put up to you. Order your CLEVELAND TRACTOR NOW!

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